

Community Garden Club Marks 75 Years of Green Thumbs

By CLAIRE MASSIMO

The Duxbury Community Garden Club gathered recently to celebrate its 75th anniversary. At least ten past presidents of the group joined in the celebration, attended by over seventy-five people.

"It was nice to be able to honor past participants in the club," said current president Barbara Heether. "Historians had pictures dating back to the 1950s, of projects the club had done. It was absolutely wonderful."

Town beautification areas that are planted and maintained



Ten past presidents of the garden club joined in the celebration.

by garden club members every spring include the town pier, King Caesar gardens, Hall's Corner, the Rt. 14 & 139 planters, intersections of 3A & Chestnut Street, and Tobey Garden & 3A, town hall and the

rotary on Rt. 14, as well as two areas near Millbrook Motors

Historically, garden club members have done much to enhance the town, including donating their time and money
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to make flower arrangements for the library and children's room on a weekly basis and also at the John Alden House during the summer months.

For the elderly housing on Chestnut Street, a group of garden club volunteers cleaned up the gardens and replanted, designed and maintained those gardens for a few years until residents took over.

The club has also donated money raised to support plantings at the senior center, the library, the planting of daffodils at Boomer Square and other town locations, and the purchasing of flower containers for various locations. The group also took part in the School Pride Landscaping

project at the High School in 1987.

The club's conservation committee has volunteered at many different organizations when help is needed. Currently the group is helping the Rural & Historical Society identify species of plants on the property of the Bradford House. It has also helped to reclaim land by helping to clear bittersweet on conservation land.

The garden club also has a hortotherapy committee holds classes 3-4 times a year at the elderly housing on Chestnut Street....all free of charge.

Every other year the club's house tour highlights Duxbury residents' gardens. Blooms at the Complex held at the Art Complex in March allows Garden Club Members to interpret

a single work of art using live flowers. Then there is the ever popular greens sale in December where beautifully hand crafted items (topiaries, swags, wreaths, etc) are made by members and sold to the public.

In the last 3 years the garden club began a Junior Garden Club, which meets once a month at the library. Any child grades 3-6 can participate at a very small fee. The club also purchases 250 seedlings that are given to the first graders at the Chandler School every year.

Finally, the club's Town Pride contest has been a great hit. Many in town say the town looks a lot prettier since it's inception, with storeowners sprucing up their storefronts for public recognition.